



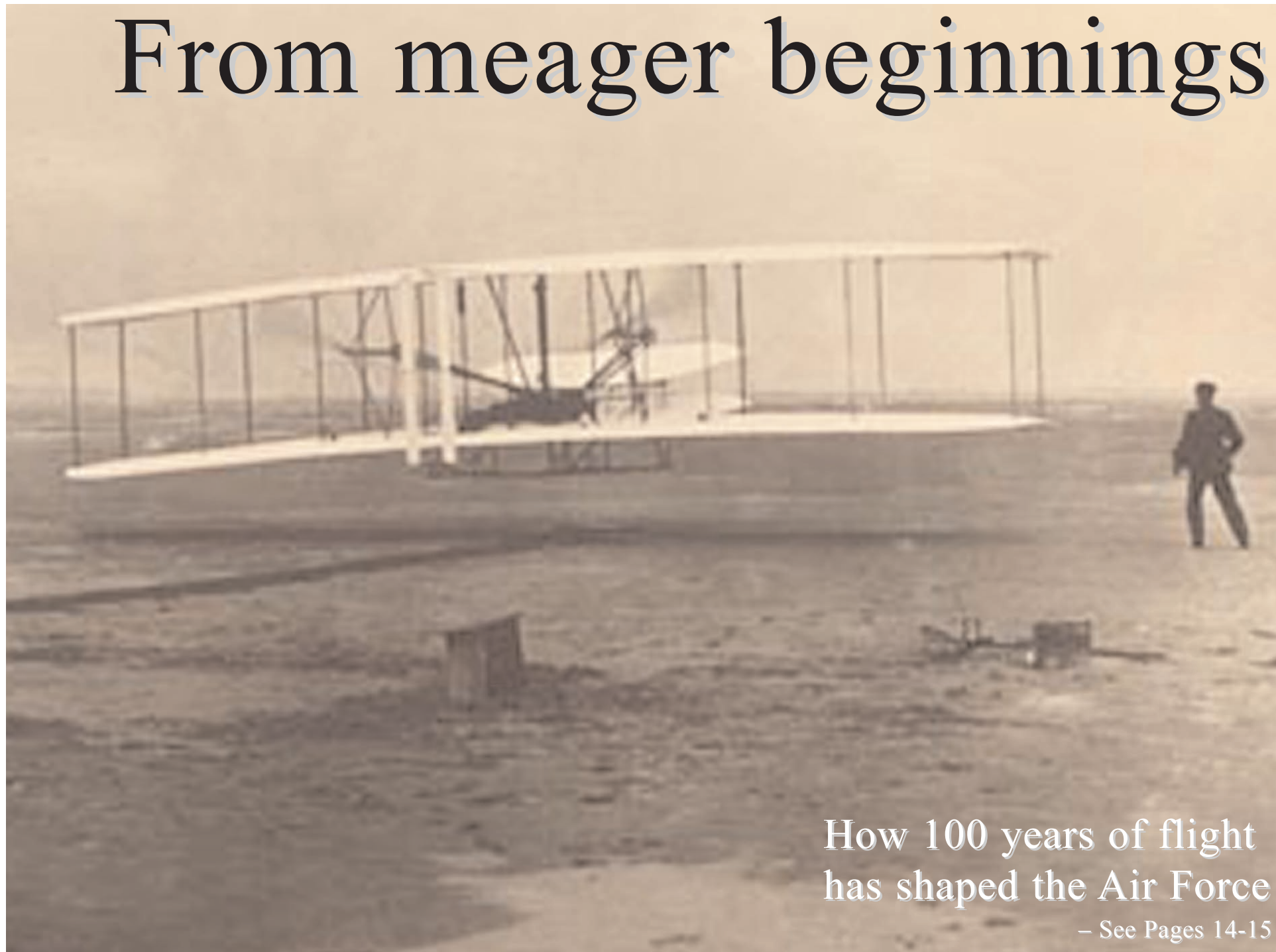
# THE LEADER

Vol. 38, No. 49

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ [www.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.grandforks.af.mil)

Dec. 12, 2003

## From meager beginnings



How 100 years of flight  
has shaped the Air Force

– See Pages 14-15

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

### Inside: Holiday messages

#### Weekend weather

Today	09/00	Partly Cloudy
Saturday	21/10	Snow
Sunday	24/15	Flurries
Monday	27/11	Snow

Weather information courtesy  
[www.weatherchannel.com](http://www.weatherchannel.com)

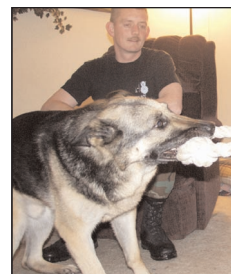


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### A new home

Page 6



### Winter wonderland

Page 8



# Give back to community during holiday season

By Capt. (Chaplain) Andrew McIntosh  
Base chapel

One of the most well known sayings of Jesus is, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

We often hear this Scripture quoted around the holiday season, but in our busy lives we often forget the true blessings that come in being generous toward those who are less fortunate. Here on base, we have many opportunities to give locally, nationally and around the world.

Here are just some of those opportunities:

**Salvation Army** – The most urgent time to give to the Salvation Army is before the Thanksgiving to Christmas season when the traditional 'bell ringing' takes place. Kettle collections are used locally.

A little known fact is 75 percent of the third-world Salvation Army budget comes from United States Salvation Army funds, according to (Salvation Army) Maj. Keith Bailey.

**Operation Christmas Child** – Any parent can testify that selfishness is not a trait you have to teach a child, but generosity is.

A great way to teach generosity to a child is to talk to them about giving away one, two or even three or more of their toys to children who are less fortunate than themselves.

Operation Christmas Child is a project

through Samaritans Purse in which a shoebox can be filled with gifts, for either a boy or girl, and sent around the world

**Gifts for Grafton** – This is a program, organized through the chapel each year where-by gift donations are taken to adults who live in the Grafton Developmental Center. A personalized list of items is available before and after each chapel service.

Point of contact is Capt. (Chaplain) Matthew Vesey at 747-3147.

Once again, you can serve meals at the base dining facility during the Christmas meals. You can also invite over a single airman or co-worker who does not have an opportunity to go home for the holiday season (especially if they are away from home for the first time).

**New Year's** – Airmen Against Drunk Driving will be available to drive people home who have had too much to drink.

AADD is looking for volunteers to be designated drivers or to answer phones in order to coordinate transportation for people. AADD is also in the middle of a membership drive and taking officer nominations for the 2004 calendar year.

To volunteer, call Tech. Sgt. April McCurry at 747-3280.

These are just a few of the opportunities to give to others. If you are interested in any of them, please call the contact numbers listed.

## Action Line 747-4522

*The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.*

*For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message. Questions will be answered in the order they are received.*



**Col. Mark Ramsay**  
319th Air Refueling Wing  
commander

## Town Hall meeting answer

**Q:** *Why are there so many empty houses on base, and why is there a waiting list to get a house on base at the same time?*

**A:** The empty units spread over base are either being replaced in a near-term construction project, or are being held to relocated families forced to move for construction. The base would not want to move anyone into one of those units and then direct them to move out.

The base has a very small waiting list at the present time. The waiting period is approxi-

mately 30 days from the time the military member and his family arrives on station.

**Q:** *Are they going to put up playground areas in new housing areas?*

**A:** The base has already placed 16 new playgrounds throughout housing. The placement was accomplished by using the Housing Community Profile which is the long-term plan for housing. Some of the new playgrounds have been allocated for future housing plans.

**6**

Consecutive  
DWI-free days

**100%**

Mission  
effectiveness rating



Library of Congress

**Cover photo**  
**This is the first flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903.**

### Editorial staff

Col. Mark Ramsay	_____	Wing commander
Capt. Patricia Lang	_____	Chief, public affairs
2nd Lt. Ashley Gee	_____	Chief, internal information
Master Sgt. Scott Davis	_____	NCOIC, public affairs
Senior Airman Joshua Moshier	_____	Managing editor
Airman Patrice Clarke	_____	Staff writer

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, martial status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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# Air Force leaders send holiday message



**By Gen. John P. Jumper and Dr. James G. Roche**  
Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force

During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of our nation's armed forces.

Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm's way.

We know this has been a challenging year as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and offer our thanks for what you're doing for the Air Force and America. No matter where we go, we're always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism.

Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known.

We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far

from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. Simply put, we are honored to serve with you.

It is our hope you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

## *AMC commander wishes everyone safe, happy holiday*

**By Gen. John W. Handy**  
Air Mobility Command commander

For most people, the traditional holiday period is spent with family, friends and co-workers reflecting on the past year and making plans for the new year.

It is also a time when many of our Air Mobility Command members make poor decisions while driving.

Last holiday season, AMC lost three airmen. Two died in automobile accidents and the other airman died from a drowning mishap.

I entrust leadership at all levels to be involved. As you well know, caring for your people does not stop when the day's work is done. I ask all AMC commanders to promote risk management at

every opportunity. Make sure your people know automobile mishaps continue to be the largest "taker" of Air Force lives. Emphasize that excessive speed, alcohol and fatigue often result in fatal consequences. Demand your people use sound risk management principles to make certain we maintain the highest level of mission accomplishment day-in and day-out.

Bottom line: help your personnel plan safe alternatives and include safety in all holiday activities.

We don't want to lose a single member of our AMC family during this holiday season. Let's be prepared for the challenges ahead – both on and off duty.

I wish all of you a safe, joyous and happy holiday.

## Winter driving safety tips

The three P's for safe winter driving are: Prepare for the trip, Protect yourself and Prevent crashes on the road.

Be prepared for winter driving. Find an empty parking lot and practice your braking techniques. Accelerate up to ten miles per hour and engage those antilock brakes. Also, have your spouse and teenage drivers practice in a parking lot before driving on the main roadways. Remember while practicing to keep your speed to a minimum.

► Plan your trip, take a map and have possible alternate routes planned.

► Ensure your car is good working order. Vehicle breakdowns can prove fatal in isolated areas during winter weather.

► Have your winter survival kit ready. No one expected the blizzard that left 11 inches in 2001, leaving many vehicles stranded on Interstate 29 for hours in subzero temperatures.

► Take a cell phone with you when you travel, but pull over to a rest stop when you must take or

make a cell phone call. Driving distracted greatly increases the risk of a mishap occurring.

► The primary cause of driving fatalities is speed regardless of the season – speed kills. Slow down and drive for the current road conditions. Leave early, giving yourself plenty of time to get to your destination

► Buckle up – statistics and personal testimony of crash victims have proven that seatbelts save lives.

► Never mix drugs (including prescription medication that may cause drowsiness) and alcohol with driving.

► Get plenty of sleep before going on long family trips. No one wants to wake up in a hospital to find themselves the sole survivor of a crash caused because they fell asleep at the wheel.

► When you venture out on the icy roads, let someone know where you're going. Before you travel check for current and future weather conditions.

For details, download a copy of *Cold Hard Facts* from [www.public.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.public.grandforks.af.mil).

# Best holiday wishes, thanks from our neighbors

**By Mr. F. John Marshall**  
Grand Forks community

As I traveled with my friends to go pheasant hunting in the western part of our state the day after Thanksgiving, we passed Grand Forks Air Force Base.

I thought once again of all my Air Force friends scattered around our great country and the world. It was brought home to me one more time during this traditional time of peace on Earth that peace truly is a direct result of the guardians of our freedom – the men and women of the United States Air Force.

Because of their unselfish dedication, my friends and I and our families, and all of us in this community, can go about our daily lives secure in the knowledge we are safe, protected, and most of all, free. The vigilance and steadfastness of the men and women of Air Mobility Command contributes immensely to the peaceful environment which allows democracies to flourish, and which is the basis of freedom.

As I continued to drive across this great state of ours over the next four-and-a-half hours, I thought

of the people I have met over the past 20-some years during my visits to the base. As I hear from so many of them at this time of year, it reminds me again how truly lucky I have been because I have gotten to meet some of the greatest Americans, patriots and believers in freedom our country has ever produced. Because of their efforts, their children and grandchildren and my children and grandchildren live in freedom.

What an unselfish gift!

It has been a great honor to have their friendship, visit their homes, attend their children’s weddings, and their changes of command and retirement ceremonies. This has given me such a great opportunity to know it hasn’t been “just a job” for any of them or any of you.

It is truly because of a belief in freedom and a desire to give this country peace on Earth that you do what you do 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year. Especially during this holiday season, it is your efforts and sacrifices for which we are truly thankful.

I am not alone in this community, and I know we don’t always tell you how proud we are and show you our appreciation.

You make all of us realize we are receiving the greatest gift of all because of your efforts.

Personally, I wish I could reach out to each and every one of you and shake your hand or give you a hug to say “thank you.”

Thank you for your friendship and for always being there for the Special Olympics, for attending our churches and schools, for working so hard and diligently through our floods, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with other volunteers.

Even now, when a young woman in our community has been abducted, you have been beside us to help in the search for her.

You share your many talents with us and honor us with your friendship.

I am truly proud that you are our neighbors.

When you are transferred from Grand Forks, you can look over your shoulder and know our community is a better place because you were here. You have truly made a difference.

Your efforts make this writer proud to be an American and proud to have had you as neighbors and friends.

God bless you all, and God bless America.



# Be aware of static electricity while refueling vehicles

**By Staff Sgt. Javier Calvillo**  
Fire inspector

Have you ever seen someone fueling a vehicle while the motor was running? How about talking on a cellular phone while fueling a vehicle?

These are dangerous practices that could cost many lives if we don't get the word out.

The government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has recorded more than 30 fires in recent years when gasoline caps have been removed from vehicles at service stations.

The suspected cause: static build-up.

Often, static build-up is a culprit. According to the Petroleum Equipment Institute, in the last two years, more than 150 refueling fires have been documented that appear to be caused by a discharge of static electricity.

PEI is working on a campaign to inform people of fires as a result of static electricity at gas pumps. PEI researched the 150 cases and found these results:

- ▶ Almost all cases involved the person getting back in the vehicle while pumping gas.

- ▶ The gas vapors cause the fire when connected with static electricity.

- ▶ Twenty-nine fires occurred when the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched.

- ▶ Seventeen fires occurred before, during or after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Never get back into the vehicle while filling it with gas. If you or somebody else gets in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, be sure to close the door by touching the metal before pulling the nozzle out. This ensures the static is discharged.

Often times, this static build-up happens when fuel is being dispensed into a plastic gas container that is in the trunk of a car or bed of a pick-up truck with a plastic bed liner.

Although none of these types of fires have occurred in North Dakota, Senior Airman Andy Jasken, fire department member, said, "We must remember to comply with all refuel-



**While pumping gas may seem like a harmless activity, the danger of a fire or explosion caused by static build-up is always possible.**

ing safety rules and should not ever take dangers involved with refueling practices lightly at any time or during any situation."

Following are steps people can take to reduce the risk of fires at the pump.

- ▶ Turn your engine off.
- ▶ Don't smoke or use a cellular phone.
- ▶ Stay with the fuel nozzle and vehicle during fueling.
- ▶ Touch a metal part of your vehicle

while you exit.

- ▶ Place fuel containers on the ground when filling.

- ▶ In the event of a fire or fuel spill, stop fueling, immediately alert others of the danger, have the attendant activate the emergency fuel shut-off switch, and call the fire department at 911 from a safe phone.

For details, visit <http://www.pei.org>, or call the fire prevention office at 747-4174/4442.

# New home for old friend

*Base MWD retires after seven years on-duty, adopted by handler*

**By Senior Airman  
Joshua G. Moshier**  
Public affairs

After a lifetime of faithful service to his country, Tarzan has found his home.

The Tarzan in question does not swing from tree branches high in the jungle. This Tarzan is of the four-legged variety – a base military working dog since February, 1997.

Staff Sgt. Darrell Chisenberry, 319th Security Forces Squadron MWD handler, and family adopted Tarzan through the Department of Defense MWD Adoption Program after a heart condition resulted in Tarzan's early retirement.

Tarzan is the second MWD from base to be adopted through the program since its inception almost three years ago.

By all accounts, Tarzan's career in the Air Force was a successful one. He deployed seven times for a total of 29 months in support of operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

He deployed in support of the President and vice president of the United States 10 times in his career.

He compiled more than 1,000 hours of search time, participated in more than 50 MWD demonstrations and responded to four real-world bomb threats as well.

After all that hard work, his retirement was well-earned.

"He knows it's retirement time," Sgt. Chisenberry said. "He takes a nap around noon, and it's bedtime at 9 p.m."

A 9-year-old German Shepard, Tarzan was considered the "grandpa" in the base kennels.

"When he walked through the kennels, all the other dogs would quiet down immediately," Sgt. Chisenberry said. "If he thought it was too quiet in there, he'd get them all going."

Tarzan now passes the time with a white rope for a play toy, waiting for food to hit the floor at mealtime, and wrestling with Sgt. Chisenberry's children.

"He follows my 8-year-old son all around the house," Sgt. Chisenberry said, "and he likes to watch my wife cook."

Getting Tarzan acclimated to his new environment was not difficult, Sgt. Chisenberry said.

The first step was Tarzan passing Air Force tests checking his aggression level.

"They wanted to see how he would respond in certain situations," Sgt. Chisenberry said. "He's been in the game for seven years, though. He can tell



*Photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony Williams*

**Tarzan has found his comfort level in his new home. Here he plays tug-of-war with Wyatt Chisenberry as Staff Sgt. Darrell Chisenberry looks on.**

the difference between training and a real-world situation."

The next step for Tarzan was finding a comfort level at home. Being adopted by an MWD handler eased that transition, Sgt. Chisenberry said.

"He knew me as a caretaker at the kennels, so right away, I was all right," he said. "Then he went around and got to know everyone else in the house, and once he decided they were all right, he was right at home."



## Base chapel

### CATHOLIC:

**Mass:** 9 a.m. Sunday,  
Sunflower Chapel.

**Weekday Mass:** 11:30 a.m.  
Monday, Wednesday and  
Thursday, Sunflower Chapel.

**Reconciliation:** 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, or by  
appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

**CCD:** 10:45 a.m., Twining Elementary.

**Adult education, sacramental programs:**

Call Mrs. Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

**Advent Penance Service:** 7 p.m. Thursday,  
Sunflower Chapel.

**Children’s Christmas Mass:** 5 p.m. Dec. 24,  
Sunflower Chapel.

**Midnight Mass:** Midnight Dec. 25, Sunflower  
Chapel.

**Christmas Day Mass:** 9 a.m. Dec. 25, Sunflower  
Chapel.

### PROTESTANT:

**Traditional worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower  
Chapel.

**Contemporary worship:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie  
Rose Chapel.

**Sunday School:** 9 a.m., Eielson Elementary.

**Protestant youth of the chapel:** 4 to 5:45 p.m.  
Sunday, youth center.

**Men of the Chapel Bible study:** Noon Monday,  
Prairie Rose Chapel conference room.

**Young adults:** 6 p.m., Chaplain Swain’s home. For  
details, call 747-6468.

**Candlelight Service:** 7 p.m. Dec. 24, Sunflower  
Chapel.

### JEWISH:

For details, call Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

### RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details, call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540.

### MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details, call 747-5673.



## Base theater

**Today, 7 p.m.**

***Scary Movie 3 (PG-13)***

The third installment in the  
Scary Movie spoof franchise

pokes fun at sci-fi thrillers and sees TV news  
reporter Cindy Campbell (Anna Faris) investigating  
mysterious crop circles on the farm of Tom Logan  
(Charlie Sheen).

**Saturday, 3 p.m.**

***Brother Bear (G)***

Brother Bear is the story of a young Native  
American, Kenai (Joaquin Phoenix), whose older  
brother is killed by a bear.

**Saturday, 7 p.m.**

***Mystic River (R)***

Three childhood friends, Sean (Kevin Bacon),  
Dave (Tim Robbins), and Jimmy (Sean Penn), are  
reunited after 25 years by a police investigation into  
the murder of Jimmy’s oldest daughter.

**Dec. 19, 7 p.m.**

***The Matrix Revolutions (R)***

**Dec. 20, 3 p.m.**

***Elf (PG)***

**Dec. 20, 7 p.m.**

***The Matrix Revolutions (R)***

**Dec. 24, 2 p.m.**

***Elf (PG)***

**Tickets:** \$1.50 children, \$3 adults

For details, call 747-3021/6123.



# Winter wonderland



Photo by 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

Despite the snow and cold, base residents participated in the many events held on base Dec. 4 and 5.

(Above) The first sergeant's potato case lot sale started the morning of Dec. 4. Many volunteers came out to unload the truck and pick up their potatoes. The first sergeants group sold over 800 cases of potatoes and raised \$4,000 for the first sergeants group.

(Left) The 23rd annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was also held later that day. The base dedicated the newly planted evergreen to Sakakawea's significant contributions to the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(Below) Dec. 5 was Military Appreciation Day at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks. Over 900 tickets were given out to military members and their families for the University of North Dakota versus the United States 18 and under hockey team.



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke



# Highest honor

Members of the Air Force Honor Guard made a recruiting visit to base Tuesday. (Near right) The Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team presents arms at the end of their drill that was performed prior to the recruiting briefing. (Far right) Staff Sgt. John Gray stands at ceremonial at ease at the beginning of the drill. (Bottom) during the five minute drill, the Honor Guard did many rifle spins and movements.



# News Briefs

## Articles 15

► An airman 1st class received an Article 15 for violation of Article 111 – DUI, Article 92 – Dereliction of Duty (drinking within eight hours of duty) and Article 86 – Fail to go.

Punishment includes reduction to airman, suspended forfeiture of \$645 for two months, 30 days extra duty and Unfavorable Information File.

► An airman 1st class received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92 and Article 111 – DUI.

Punishment includes reduction to airman, 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty, Letter of Reprimand, and Unfavorable Information File.

► An airman 1st class recieved an Article 15 for violation of Article 111 – DUI.

Punishment includes reduction to airman, suspended reduction to airman basic, 30 days extra duty and Unfavorable Information File.

► A senior airman received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92 – Dereliction of Duty (misuse of the government travel card).

Punishment includes suspended reduction to airman 1st class, suspended forfeiture of \$550 for two months, 45 days restriction (15 days suspended), 45 days of extra duty (15 days suspended), Letter of Reprimand and Unfavorable Information File.

► An airman received an Article 15 for violation of two counts of Article 92 – Dereliction of Duty (misuse of government travel card and fail to pay government travel card).

Punishment includes reduction to airman, suspended reduction to airman basic, suspended 45 days of restriction, suspended 45 days extra duty, Letter of Reprimand and Unfavorable Information File.

► An airman received an Article 15 for violation of two counts of Article 92 – Dereliction Duty (failed to assist and failed to complete) and Article 92 – Failure to obey an order.

Punishment includes reduction to airman basic, 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty, and Unfavorable Information File.

► A staff sergeant received an Article 15 for violation of two counts of Article 92 – Dereliction of Duty (fail to pay governement travel card and misuse of the government travel card).

Punishment includes reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$500 for two months, 45 days extra duty (15 suspended), Letter of Reprimand and Unfavorable Information File.

► A senior airman received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92 – Dereliction of Duty (Misuse of the government travel card).

Punishment includes suspended reduction to airman 1st class, forfeiture of \$66 for two months, 22 days extra duty and Unfavorable Information File.

## Operation Warm Heart cookie drive

Join in the gift of giving by donating cookies to the single airmen on base. Please bring basic holiday type cookies only, avoid gooey frosting.

Drop off cookie donations between 7:30 and 9 a.m. at the Prairie Rose Chapel Annex.

For details, contact Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda or Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Clere at 747-4511or 747-4513.

## ESC holiday party, potluck

The Enlisted Spouses Club is holding its holiday party and potluck Monday at 7 p.m. at the community activity center. There is a gingerbread theme.

Participants are encouraged to bring a dish, an ornament for an exchange and three dozen homemade cookies (six per bag) with a recipe tag for the cookie swap. Secret pals will be revealed.

Holiday craft materials and beverages will be provided.

No children at this event please. For details, call the CAC at 747-6104, or Mrs. Tracy Carter at 747-4518.

## WAR Center hours of operation

The Warrior Airmen Recreation Center hours of operation are as follows:

**Monday to Thursday** – 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Friday to Saturday** – 8 a.m. to 3 a.m.

**Sunday** – noon to 10 p.m.

The snack bar will be open

**Monday to Thursday** – 5 to 10 p.m.

**Friday to Saturday** – 5 p.m. to 3 a.m.

**Sunday** noon to 10 p.m.



# *WAR Center ribbon cut*



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble

The Warrior Airmen Recreation Center opened its doors for the first time Dec. 4. The WAR Center is for senior airmen and below and features two pool tables, an air hockey table, a snack bar, movie room, and a computer and game room.

(Above) Airman 1st Class Karvelisse Gayles, Airmen Activity Council president, Col. Mark Ramsay, wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda, command chief, Mr. Dalton Steele, honorary command chief, and Mr. John Marshall, honorary wing commander and base ambassador, help cut the WAR Center ribbon.

(Near right) The completed project.

(Right) Airman 1st Class Derrick Cooley test out the pool tables at the WAR Center.



photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

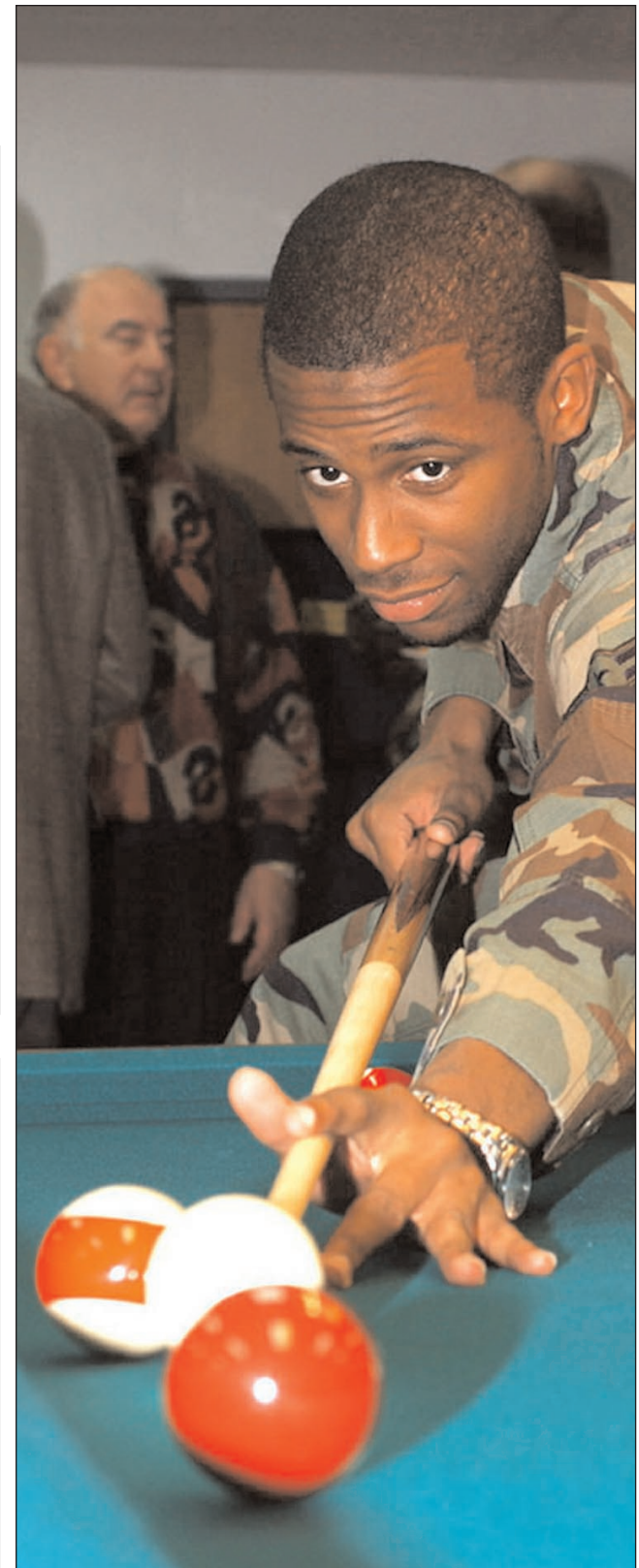


photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble





Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

## Flip the switch

Airman 1st Class Charles Thompson, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron, changes a lightbulb on a lightpole on base Tuesday. CES waits for lightbulbs to burn out before changing them, and they then change as many lightbulbs as necessary at one time. It takes a minimum of three CES personnel to change the lightbulbs on lightpoles – one to change the lightbulb, one to man safety and one flight commander.

# General Welser assumes command of 18th Air Force

By 2nd Lt. Dustin Hart  
Air Mobility Command public affairs

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** – Lt. Gen. William Welser III assumed command of the recently reactivated 18th Air Force during a change of command ceremony Dec. 1 here.

In the ceremony, officiated by Gen. John W. Handy, commander U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, Gen. Welser was also promoted to his new grade.

The 18th AF is Air Mobility Command's only numbered Air Force. It reactivated Oct. 1 and is responsible with tasking and executing all air mobility missions.

"This war fighting concept ... the 18th Air Force, is exquisite," Gen. Welser said. "If you think about all the things we have done in the history of Air Mobility Command, suddenly we have an organization under a single commander with the mobility forces... to go out and fight the wars of the future. I look forward to the opportunity to do that job."

As 18th AF commander, Gen. Welser leads a force of more than 54,000 airmen and civilians located at 12 AMC wings, three AMC groups, the Tanker Airlift Control Center here, and the new 15th and 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces.

Maj. Gen. Paul Essex, director of AMC Plans and Programs Directorate, served as the 18th AF commander while Gen. Welser's presidential nomination awaited congressional approval. Congress approved the nomination Nov. 25.

Gen. Welser's prior assignment was as the Director of Operations for



Courtesy photo

**Lt. Gen. William Welser III, assumes command of the 18th Air Force Dec. 1 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.**

USTRANSCOM. He left that assignment in August and has since served as special assistant to Gen. Handy.

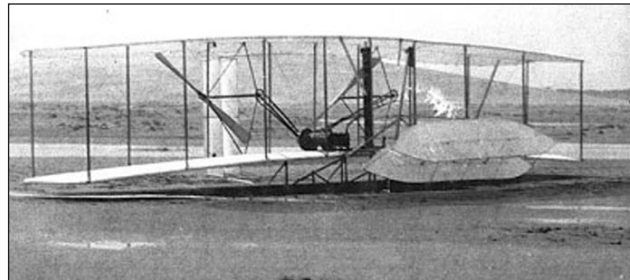
Gen. Welser is a command pilot with more than 3,500 hours in the C-5, C-141, KC-10 and T-1. He has held command positions at the squadron, wing and headquarters levels, as well as at the TACC and the Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, N.J.



# Centennial of Flight timeline

## 1903

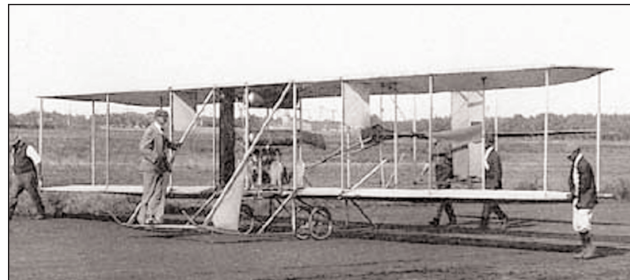
The front elevator frame was broken on landing at the end of the fourth flight.



Wright State University

## 1912

In 1912, the Wright Model B was used to demonstrate the first use of a machine gun from a plane.



U.S. Air Force photo

## 1935

The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress first flew in July 1935. This four-engine bomber could carry up to 17,600 pounds of bombs and hold as many as 12 guns. It would become the backbone of the U.S. strategic bombing campaign in World War II.



U.S. Air Force Museum photo archives

## 1966

B-52 of the 736th Bomb Squadron, 454th Bomb Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., on Oct. 26, 1966.



U.S. Air Force Museum photo archives

## 2003

The F-117A Nighthawk is the world's first operational aircraft designed to exploit low-observable stealth technology.

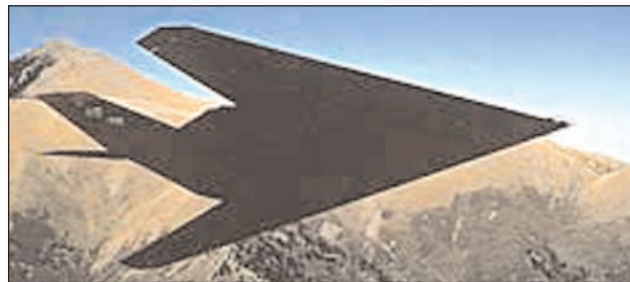


Photo by Staff Sgt. Andy Dunaway

# Aviation pioneers help mold a fledgling Air Force

(Editor's note: This is a summarized article published in *Airman Magazine* in February, 2003)

By Mr. Louis A. Arana-Barradas  
Airman Magazine

There are few people who've doubted the might of American military aviation. Those who did felt its global reach and devastating knockout punch.

American aviation helped speed up the surrender of Germany and Japan in World War II, kept the people of Berlin from starving, turned the tide in Korea and forced North Vietnam back to the Paris Peace talks.

It ended Iraq's quest for Middle East domination, helped stop ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and forced the Taliban to let go of its tyrannical grip on the people of Afghanistan.

This is not exactly what the fathers of powered flight, misters Orville and Wilbur Wright, had in mind for aviation when they flew the first heavier-than-air aircraft 100 years ago.

"When my brother and I built the first man-carrying flying machine, we thought that we were introducing into the world an invention which would make further wars practically impossible," Orville said in 1917.

He was wrong, of course. By then, World War I had been going on for almost four years. It was just a decade after the Wright's historic flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., and aircraft were proving they were formidable war machines.

U.S. military leaders were slow to recognize the airplane's full potential, however. By the time the U.S. joined the fight in 1917, their European allies and foes were way ahead in the development of aviation.

It wasn't because American aviators lacked imagination. Many had seen the aircraft's military potential as soon as the Wrights flew at Kitty Hawk, but they weren't in charge. These "upstarts" had to get the Army — which still had horse-mounted cavalry — to recognize the potential.

It wasn't until 1909 that the Army Signal Corps bought its first "air machine." It chose an improved version of the Wright Flyer, and the U.S. military was in the aviation business.

It was still rough going at first. The infant service had to count on its own people — mostly young infantry and cavalry officers and enlisted men — for direction. They had to learn by doing, invent as they progressed, brainstorm and try ideas they thought would work, and keep convincing their leaders their fledgling force would one day make a difference in the way the U.S. military would fight.

To do all that, they had to take risks.

"Any organization that wants to grow has to take risks," said retired Gen. Chuck Horner, the air boss of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, "and the more you stick your neck out, the greater the opportunity for failure."

But Gen. Horner, whose own Persian Gulf War staff had many risk takers, said, "That's what happens when people use their own judgment and try new ways of doing things."

The risks they take, he said, "involve reward and punishment, depending on if you're right or wrong in your judgment."

That was certainly true for the early pioneers of U.S. military aviation. They had to be idea men, risk takers and aviators. They made mistakes, but they also made great strides in developing what is today the world's premier Air Force. Still, each time they did what they loved most — fly — the chances of a crash, or crash landing, were real.

In the book *Hap Arnold, Architect of American Air Power*, Mr. Flint DuPre writes of Gen. Arnold's first flight. The Wright brothers were teaching military airmen to fly, and the future Air Force leader was their fourth pupil. His instructor was Mr. Al Welsh. Arnold, a second lieutenant, flew from a cow pasture at Simms Station, N.C., on May 3, 1911. Before taking off, he asked Mr. Welsh about the man with the black derby sitting on the wagon at the edge of the field.

"That's the local undertaker," Mr. Welsh said. "He comes out every day and drives back empty. Let's keep it that way."

After 28 flights and three hours and 48 minutes in the air — an average of eight minutes per flight — Gen. Arnold was an aviator. Most of the early aviators received similar training. It was crude and dangerous. But, for those early pioneers, it was their ticket to the clouds.

### Other early pioneers

Modern aviation owes its success to pioneers willing to take risks during the wild and woolly days of aviation. The list of pioneers is long.

It includes World War I aces Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, 1st Lt. George Vaughn and 2nd Lt. Frank Luke, transatlantic flier Capt. Charles Lindbergh, Mr. Glenn Curtiss, Mr. Wiley Post, Mrs. Amelia Earhart and countless daredevil speed racers, barnstormers, industrialists and politicians.

They romanticized aviation and grabbed the headlines with their daring exploits. They were important in helping further the cause of aviation. It was another group of aviation pioneers who emerged and gave the fledgling air corps a course, however — its wings. Their vision shaped aviation, and some of them would be the founding fathers of the future Air Force.

They weren't the fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants kind of adventurers. They were visionaries — just as adventurous and willing to take risks — with different goals. They wanted to give America its own Air Force.

The list included Maj. Gen. Benny Foulois, Gen. Tooey Spaatz, Gen. Ira Eaker, Lt. Gen. Pete Quesada and Gen. Arnold. And it included the most influential — and flamboyant — of the early proponents of military aviation: Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell. From this core of luminaries, the Air Force dream was born.

Others also played major roles in building military aviation including Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, who led the Tokyo Raiders on the first attack of the Japanese homeland in World War II, Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, who turned a band of roughneck pilots into the fabled Flying Tigers, and Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who overcame incredible odds to ensure black airmen could also serve their country.

There was risk in what they did. Amazingly, most were ordinary people — except for their desire to further aviation.

They were people who, when "confronted with a truly difficult situation, used experience, brains and nerve" to overcome the challenges, Gen. Horner said.

Gen. Horner has taken risks. He was in the Air Force 36 years and flew more than 100 combat missions over North Vietnam. In the Persian Gulf War, he commanded U.S. and allied air operations.

"We were expected to take risks," he said. That made his airmen and their units more effective.

No one was more adept at risk taking than Gen. Mitchell. He was the chief advocate of a strong and modern air corps, argued tirelessly for a strong air defense, and he said the airplane would one day replace the Navy's fleet as America's first line of defense. He also saw the airplane as a strategic weapon that could take the fight to the enemy's heartland.

"The advent of air power, which can go straight to the vital centers and either neutralize or destroy them, has put a completely new complexion on the old system of making war," Gen. Mitchell said before World War II. "It is

now realized that the hostile main army in the field is a false objective, and the real objectives are the vital centers."

Gen. Mitchell paid the price for his ceaseless campaign for American air power. The Army court-martialed him, but his prophecy was on the mark in World War II — and all conflicts afterward.

A forward thinker, Gen. Mitchell said in the development of air power, "one has to look ahead and not backward and figure out what is going to happen."

That kind of thinking helped develop a strong Air Force.

Gen. Arnold learned about air combat from Gen. Mitchell and shared his mentor's dream. Gen. Arnold forged a direction and mission for the Air Force, had the foresight to build strong ties with the scientific and industrial groups that supported the infant air corps, and continued the charge started by Gen. Mitchell for a separate Air Force, which he considered vital for national defense.

"A modern, autonomous and thoroughly trained Air Force in being at all times will not alone be sufficient," he said, "but without it, there can be no national security."

The Air Corps, and later Army Air Forces, got a chance to prove its mettle in World War II. That's where generals Arnold, Spaatz and Eaker defined the Air Force's role, and it's where they garnered support for a separate Air Force after the war.

After the war, Gen. Arnold continued to lead the post-war Army Air Forces before retiring in 1946. Gen. Spaatz, who commanded the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe during the war, took his place. With Gen. Eaker — whose forte was building a strong force structure and organizational plans for the post-war Air Force — he continued the quest for a separate Air Force.

### A separate force

That finally happened when the National Security Act of 1947 created a separate Air Force on Sept. 17, 1947. Gen. Spaatz became the Air Force's first chief of staff eight days later. Two years later, President Harry Truman appointed Gen. Arnold the first and only five-star General of the Air Force.

Many of the early pioneers lived to see a

separate Air Force. Then the airmen the early pioneers trained carried on the work of building a strategic Air Force.

They contended with a different challenge: taking the Air Force into the jet — and then space — age. Generals like Hoyt Vandenberg and Curtis LeMay defined the Air Force role.

The new Air Force had its share of risk takers, like Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager. A World War II ace, he became a test pilot and was the first man to break the sound barrier. He was part of the new breed of airmen, the kind the Air Force needed to build a separate image.

Though he took them, Gen. Yeager said he never concentrated on risks.

"You concentrate on results," he said, because, "in the business we're in, you only get one mistake. Unfortunately, you don't get to learn from it."

Gen. Yeager had "the right stuff" needed to continue forging the new Air Force. He broke the sound barrier for the last time Oct. 28, 2002, in an F-15 Eagle. It brought to an end a 60-year military flying career.

"Now is a good time [to quit]," the general said. "I've had a heck of a good time, and very few people get exposed to the things I've been exposed to."

In its first 100 years, aviation has made a quantum leap in sophistication and technology. The men who forged aviation went from riding horses to flying airplanes.

Aircraft were first built of wood, then metal and now stealthy composites. Piston engines gave way to jet power.

For the past 55 years, the Air Force has been at the forefront of space development. The Air Force grew because of the will and ingenuity of visionary airmen who "thought outside the box" way before it became a catch phrase.

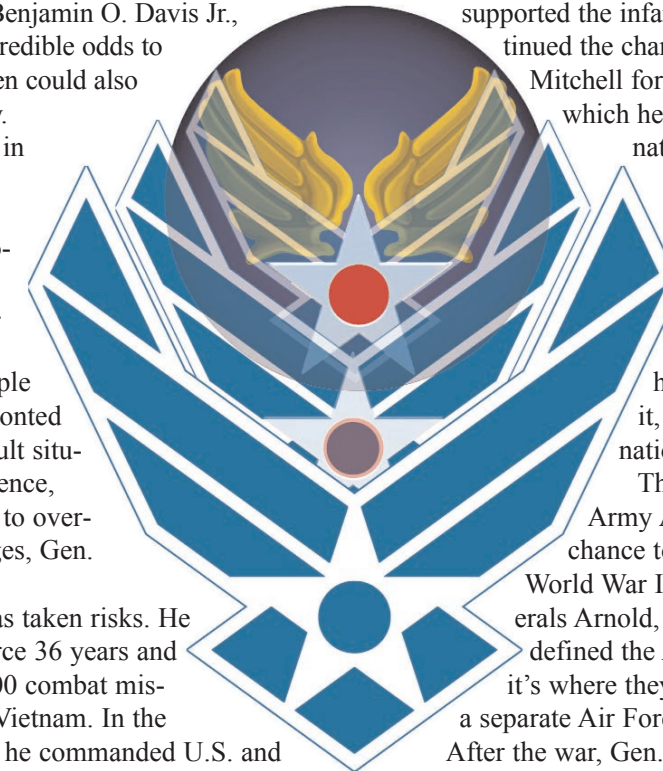
Gen. Horner said aviation pioneers tackled hard jobs because it was what they had to do.

"I think about Jimmy Doolittle, who could have been a glamour poster child, but who more often took hard jobs and got them done," Gen. Horner said.

Today's pioneers continue to shape military aviation, and they still face challenges. The Afghanistan campaign and the War on Terrorism attest to that.

Air Force attacks on Taliban and al Qaeda targets are a study in precision strategic bombing. The aircraft used are leading edge — bombers, tankers, fighter and cargo alike — And smart bombs fly to their targets on courses plotted by space-based guidance systems.

If the Wright brothers only knew what they started 100 years ago.





Community

Today

**FRAMING ORDERS:** The skills development center must have all framing orders in by Monday.

**PASTA BAR:** The Northern Lights Club offers a “pasta bar” along with the day’s hot entree during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club offers sirloin steak as a special tonight from 5:30 to 8 p.m

Saturday

**CLUB KARAOKE:** The Northern Lights Club offers karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

**CLUB DANCING:** The Northern Lights Club offers dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. to ‘club mix’ music with “DJ ‘C.’”

Sunday

**FOOTBALL FRENZY:** The Northern Lights Club invites everyone to watch football and win prizes.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH:** The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
There is a \$3 members first discount.

Monday

**FLOOR HOCKEY REGISTRATION:** Monday is the last day to register for floor hockey for youth ages 5 and older. Cost is \$30. Register at the youth center.

Coaches are also needed for all age groups. A coaches certification is required.

For details, call the youth center at 747-3151.

TRAVELING BASKETBALL

**REGISTRATION:** Today through January 15, 2004, is traveling basketball registration.

Anyone interested in participating on a traveling basketball team can sign up at the youth center.

The teams are for boys and girls in grades six through nine.

Cost is \$37 and participants must have a current physical.

Coaches are also needed.

**FOOTBALL FRENZY:** The Northern Lights Club invites everyone to watch football and win prizes.

Tuesday

**HOLIDAY DANCES:** The youth center will be holding holiday dances Dec. 20 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for ages 6 to 12 and 9:30 to 11 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. Cost is \$3.

To participate sign up at the youth center by Dec. 16.

Wednesday

FARGO YOUTH SHOPPING TRIP:

The youth center is sponsoring a shopping trip to the West Acres Mall Dec. 23 for ages 13 to 18.

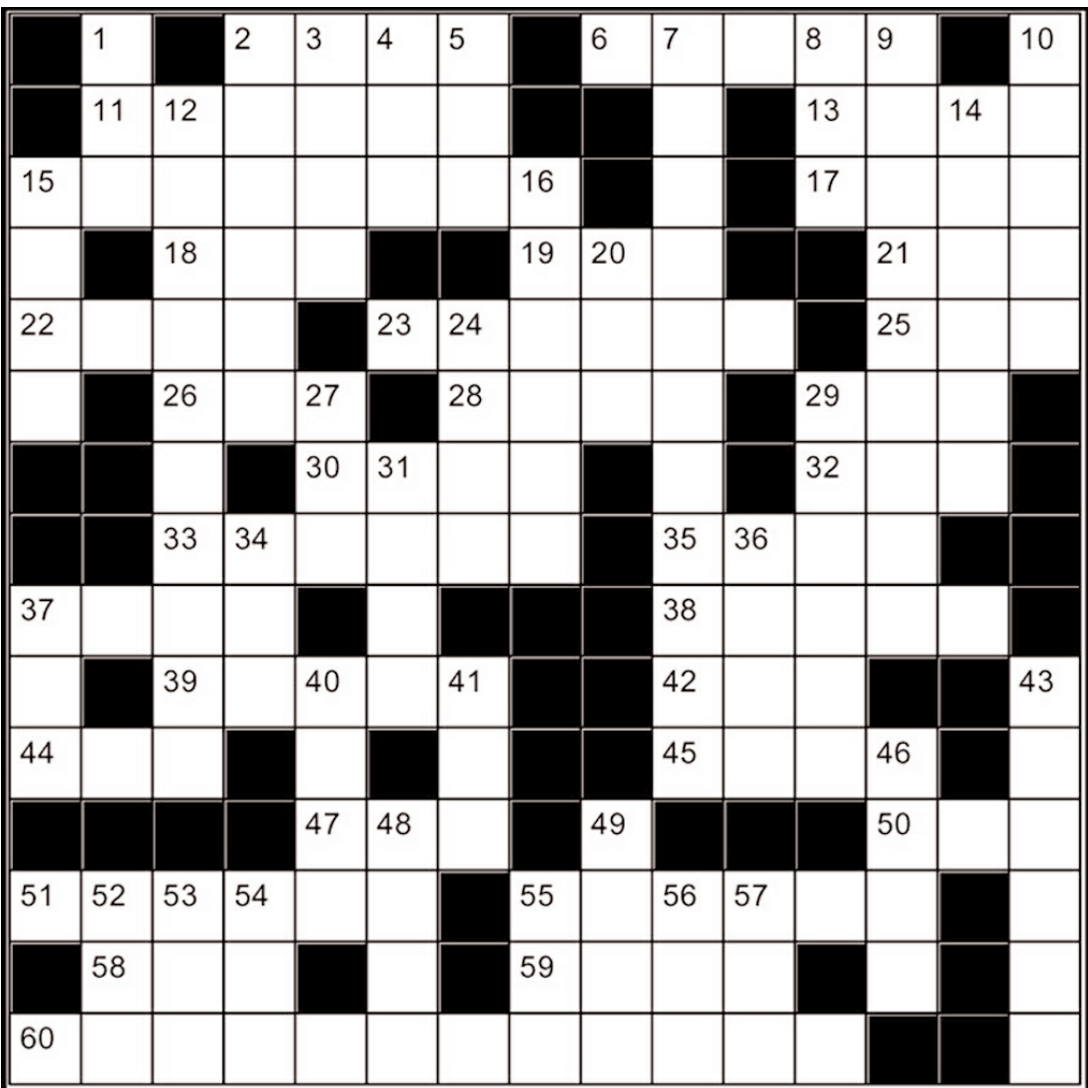
Transportation departs from the youth center at noon and will return at 7:30 p.m.

A parent permission slip will be required. Cost is \$10.

There must be 10 participants to hold this trip. Register at the youth center by Dec. 17.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club offers an “all-you-can-eat” taco Bar from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$6.

– Continued next page



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman Alaskan Command Public Affairs

This week’s answers will be published in the next issue of *The Leader*.

Flying into the Blue

ACROSS

2. Actress Ward  
6. Florida AFB home to 33rd FW; a/c tail marking of EG  
11. \_\_\_\_\_ de corps; service pride and loyalty  
13. U.S. currency coin  
15. KC-10  
17. Periods  
18. Fighter pilot expert  
19. Sphere  
21. Owns  
22. Actress Petty  
23. B-1B  
25. Temp. military duty  
26. Headed  
28. Type of cheese  
29. Comedian Margaret  
30. Champion  
32. Rule  
33. F-16  
35. Ponderous  
37. Abominable snowman

38. Duties  
39. Mistake  
42. See  
44. Combat  
45. abcd...jklm....????  
47. 2,000 lbs  
50. Zero  
51. F-15s  
55. B-2  
58. Formerly  
59. Peers; as in court  
60. KC-135

DOWN

1. Superman's nemesis  
2. Money in coin  
3. Sea eagle  
4. Top  
5. Dined  
7. C-17  
8. Actress Lupino  
9. F-117  
10. Sadlier novel, \_\_\_\_\_ Conway: or The Irish Girl in America  
12. C-141  
14. Lea  
15. Fashionable magazine

16. Brazilian who opened country interior; Candido  
20. Record company  
24. Prefix meaning "air"  
27. FedEx rival  
29. Clothing spot  
31. Greek nymph  
34. Breath  
36. Installs  
37. Shrub tree  
40. By memory  
41. Galloped  
43. C-5  
46. Do \_\_\_\_\_ others ....  
48. Capital of Norway  
49. Gyrated  
52. Picnic pest  
53. Country between Ned. and Pol.  
54. Actress Thompson  
55. AF lawyer  
56. Bother  
57. Bread type

# Heir Force

**Gabriela Mabel Mendez**, 6 pounds 7 ounces, was born July 28 to Tech Sgt. Seymour and Zuletra Mendez.

**Douglas Bauer**, 6.5 pounds 20.5 ounces, was born Nov. 6 to Staff Sgt. Jillian and Benjemen Bauer, 319th Logistic Readiness Squadron.

**Andrew John Cantera**, 7 pounds 9.5 ounces, was born Nov. 7 to Capt. Kevin and Angie Cantera, 905th Air Refueling Squadron.

**Daniel Hurst**, 8 pounds, 13.9 ounces, was born Nov. 8 to Staff Sgt. Christopher and Betty Hurst, 319th Maintenance Squadron.

**Dustin James Schettler**, 8 pounds 9 ounces, was born Nov. 11 to Staff Sgt. Kevin and Sonia Schettler, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**Brody Thomas Timm**, 7 pounds 11 ounces, was born Nov. 12 to Capt. Samantha and Paul Timm, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

**Harley Casandra Winkler**, 5 pounds 19.5 ounces, was born Nov. 13 to Staff Sgt. Scott and Sherry Winkler, 319th LRS.

**Kiyana Leigh Gallagher**, 9 pounds 4.7 ounces, was born Nov. 13 to Airman 1st Class Antwon and Jessica Gallagher, 319th MXS.

**Paige Madison Varney**, 12 pounds 9.1 ounces, was born Nov. 13 to Airman 1st Class Jeremy and Amber Varney, 319th LRS.

**Sarah M. Allen**, 6 pounds 12.3 ounces, was born Nov. 17 to (Army) Staff Sgt. Thomas and Diane Allen.

**Jaysen Alexander Meaney**, 7 pounds 5 ounces, was born Nov. 19 to Airman 1st Class Jeffery and Heather Meaney, 319th Civil Engineering Squadron.

**Guinnevere Jozelynn Mullins**, 7 pounds 6.6 ounces, was born Nov. 27 to Airman Jonathan and Tiffany Mullins, 319th AMXS.

– Continued from previous page

## Thursday

**TEEN SLEDDING TRIP:** The youth center is sponsoring a teen sledding trip to Turtle River State Park Dec. 22 for ages 13 to 18.

Transportation will depart the youth center at 1 p.m. and return to the youth center at 4 p.m.

Cost is \$3, and youth must sign up by Thursday with 10 participants to hold this event.

Youth will need a sled, warm clothing and a signed parent permission slip.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club offers steak night every Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Choose from:

12-ounce rib eye – \$12.95

8-ounce sirloin – \$10.50

20-ounce sirloin – \$13.75

There will also be an 8-ounce char-broiled chicken for \$9.50 offered for those who do not want steak.

In addition, a children’s menu will be available.

## Upcoming

### NEW YEAR’S EVE AT

**THE CLUB:** The Northern Lights Club offers you to bring in the new year at the club for dinner and dancing.

Prime rib and jumbo shrimp will be served from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. with a DJ, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

Club members get in to the dance-free; non-member cost is \$5. For reservations or details, call 747-3392.

## WAR Center open house

All senior airmen and below are invited to the Warrior Airmen Recreation Center’s open house Saturday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Come watch the University of North Dakota versus Grand Valley State in the Division II Championship football game. Each military member is allowed two civilian guest. All civilian guest will need a picture ID to be permitted on base. The snack bar will be open. For details, call the WAR Center at 747-5733.

# Short-handed Warriors split with Team Minot

Compiled by staff reports

The Warriors men’s basketball team, playing without three regular starters, split a weekend series with Team Minot, winning 91-83 Saturday night and falling 94-85 in the Sunday matinee.

After leading by eight points at halftime, the Warriors opened up a 12-point lead in the second half. However, Team Minot battled back with two minutes to play to take a one-point lead. Clutch rebounding by new forward Derrick Jones and equally clutch shooting by point guard Matt Wireman sealed the deal.



The Warriors and Team Minot battle for position as the await a rebound Saturday.

The five-foot, 11-inch Jones played big down the stretch. Playing in his first varsity game, Jones scored 14 points and hauled in 10 rebounds with four on the offensive glass.

However, his biggest board came with one minute left in the game when he boxed-out the six-foot, five-inch Minot center and forced an over-the-back call. Seconds later, Wireman hit a clutch 25-footer to put the Warriors ahead to stay. Wireman led all scorers with 31 points.

The next morning, Team Minot had the Warriors’ number.

“They out-hustled and out-coached us in the second game,” said head coach D.J. Lemelle. “We didn’t have any answers for what they were doing. Minot’s point guard had an exceptional game. He is by far the best point guard we have faced all year.”

The Warriors did have a few positives coming off the bench as Russell Mackey kept them in the game by scoring a season-high 19 points.

Brandon Franklin added a season-high 10 points and grabbed five rebounds off the bench, and Marquis Dawkins and Tyrone Edwards added five and four points respectively while adding positive minutes on the floor.

“We are a very young team,” Lemelle said. “We have been playing without two and



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

Point guard Matt Wireman brings the ball upcourt Saturday against Team Minot.

three regular starters all year. Our overall record right now is 4-5, and 2-0 in league play.

“Our bench is getting tons of experience, which will make us stronger as the season goes on. We are expecting to get all of our starters back in January.”

“I am so proud of these guys,” he said. “The sacrifice they have made thus far has been remarkable. Each loss we have encountered, we have learned and gained valuable experience.

“This will definitely prepare us down the stretch in our league play and in upcoming tournaments.”

Lemelle and the team want to thank all the fans who came out to support them this past weekend.

## Intramural sports standings

as of Wednesday

### Basketball

TEAM	W	L
CES	8	0
OSS	7	1
LRS-A	5	1
MXS	5	2
CS-A	4	3
LRS-B	4	3
SFS	3	4
MDG	3	5
AMXS	3	6
CS-B	1	7
MOS	(forfeited out of season)	

### Old-pro

TEAM	W	L
SFS	1	0
MDG	1	0
AMXS	1	0
CS	0	0
LRS	0	1
MSS	0	1
OSS	0	1



## WELLNESS TIP

### Reducing breast cancer risk

More than 200,000 women and 1,300 men are diagnosed annually with breast cancer\*

To reduce the risk of breast cancer:

- Cut down on high-fat food, maintain ideal weight
- Get regular, brisk exercise
- Eat at least 5 fruit and vegetable servings each day
- Consider daily multivitamin, mineral supplements
- Avoid or restrict alcohol, avoid tobacco
- Consult health care providers for more options



\*American Cancer Society statistics

SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InfoGraphic by Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan